

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims to cancel Claims 1 - 5 and add new Claims 6 - 15 as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 5 (Canceled)

6. (New) A coffee machine having a drawer which can be pushed into the coffee machine in a substantially horizontal manner with the coffee pad inserted therein for supplying a coffee pad, wherein a coffee pad retainer is located in the drawer and in the pushed-in state of the drawer, can be displaced by a retaining device at least in a substantially vertical manner so that the coffee pad retainer can be lifted by means of the retaining device and that a brewing chamber surrounding the coffee pad is closed by lifting the coffee pad retainer.

7. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 6, wherein the retaining device comprises two clamps which enclose the coffee pad retainer on opposite sides, which can be lifted or lowered by means of a lever mechanism.

8. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 7, wherein each clamp has a continuation at its lower end which applies an upwardly directed force to the coffee pad retainer during lifting of the retaining device.

9. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the clamps has a further continuation which applies a downwardly directed force to the coffee pad retainer during lowering of the retaining device.

10. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 7, wherein the lever mechanism comprises a hand-operated lever which is arranged on the upper side of the coffee machine.

11. (New) A coffee machine comprising:  
a housing having a recessed slide-in area;  
a drawer being received in the slide-in area and including a coffee pad  
retainer for retaining a coffee pad;  
a retainer cover disposed within the housing adjacent the slide-in area; and  
a retaining device supported by the housing and including a clamp  
disposed adjacent the slide-in area, the clamp engaging the coffee pad retainer and  
moving the coffee pad retainer toward the retainer cover to form a substantially sealed  
chamber between the coffee pad retainer and the retainer cover.

12. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 11, wherein the drawer  
moves in a substantially horizontal direction when being inserted into the slide-in area  
and the coffee pad retainer moving in a substantially vertical direction by the retaining  
device.

13. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 11, wherein the retaining  
device includes two clamps disposed on opposite sides of the slide-in area and moving  
the coffee pad retainer in a substantially vertical direction in response to movement of a  
lever mechanism.

14. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 11, wherein the lever  
mechanism comprises a hand-operated lever supported by the housing for pivotal  
movement with respect to the housing, the clamps moving in a linear direction in  
response to pivotal movement of the lever.

15. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 14, further comprising a  
shaft coupled to the lever and engaging the clamps.